

# Kentucky Environmental Leadership Program



## *Sekisui S-LEC America Woodlands Day*

KY EXCEL Program Coordinator, Robyn Whitted, participates in activities with Sekisui's employees.

## **KY EXCEL**

KY EXCEL is the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's (DEP) free environmental leadership program, whose members complete voluntary projects to improve the environment. In 2005, groundwork for KY EXCEL was laid by cabinet staff meeting with citizens and companies and reviewing other state environmental leadership programs.

With the foundation set, KY EXCEL launched on Jan. 17, 2006 with four different membership levels. The KY EXCEL membership levels are divided between regulated and non-regulated members. Regulated members are entities who have an air, water or waste permit from the DEP. Non-regulated members are entities and individuals not regulated by DEP, but looking to help their community.



Environmental  
Assistance Branch Staff

**Manager**  
Kari Johnson

**Program  
Coordinator**  
Robyn Whitted



## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

An acre of trees absorbs enough CO<sub>2</sub> over one year to equal the amount produced by driving a car 26000 miles. Planting trees remains one of the cheapest, most effective means of drawing excess CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. One large tree strategically placed in a yard can replace 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours per day. Little actions have a way of growing into something bigger.

SOURCE:  
[WWW.ARBORENMENTALALLIANCE.COM](http://WWW.ARBORENMENTALALLIANCE.COM)

## KY EXCEL (CONT.)

KY EXCEL provides a programmatic framework for companies, groups and individuals with the shared goal of taking on projects that help the environment and the people of the Commonwealth. The program was created with a tiered system to allow a variety of entities to participate. Members which are regulated by DEP include the Master, Leader and Partner levels. The Master level is open to DEP regulated members who have a sustained history of environmental compliance and perform 5 projects a year. The Leader, 3 projects a year, and Partner, 1 project a year, levels are available to DEP regulated entities who might have some environmental compliance concerns, but who have a desire to protect the environment while working to improve their compliance.

The Advocate level was developed for those not regulated by DEP but wish to take action. Advocate level members can be anyone. Current advocate members include citizens, households, communities, local governments, non-DEP regulated businesses, schools and nonprofit groups.

In 2016, KY EXCEL's fifth membership level was developed, KY EXCEL Farm. The Farm level is open to all individuals and entities that own at least five acres of land and farm crops or livestock.

A unique part of the KY EXCEL program is all members conduct voluntary projects. Each project is designed to benefit Kentucky's environment in some manner. These projects can be tailored to fit the members work or lifestyle.



### *KY EXCEL Member Projects*

(Top) Sekisui S-Lec America Employees install native landscaping on woodlands day. (Middle) Leggett & Platt employees, Debbie Means and Russell Allen, show off their Eco Initiative display board, (Bottom) Four Roses' employees spent a day cleaning up the Salt River.



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In FY18, KY EXCEL staff offered educational opportunities and outreach services at a variety of events held by members and other partner organizations. KY EXCEL staff participated in events held by the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, Four Roses Distillery, Kentucky American Water, Sekisui S-Lec, America, LLC, Kentucky NEED, Kentucky Environmental Education Council and Kentucky State University's Third Thursday Thing.

As part of a pollution prevention grant, KY EXCEL partnered with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center to coordinate two workshops: Wonders of Steam and Peak Demand. In addition, KY EXCEL coordinated a Leading the Way Workshop and an educational field trip to Makers Mark Distillery.

Over the past year, KY EXCEL staff provided one-on-one pollution prevention assistance by completing more than 10 site visits. Through such endeavors, program staff worked with more than 2,000 individuals and had more than 300 people attend events coordinated by KY EXCEL.



### *EEC Earth Day*

Program Coordinator, Robyn Whitted, talks to an attendee.



### *KY EXCEL Open House*

Roberta Burnes, KY Division of Air Quality Education Specialist, shares with a KY EXCEL Member.

## KY EXCEL OPEN HOUSE

Partnerships, resources and sharing were main topics as DCA hosted the first-ever KY EXCEL Open House, on June 21, in Frankfort, KY. The event welcomed anyone interested in environmental leadership and innovation in the Commonwealth. More than 100 people attended the day-long event. At the open house, attendees viewed informational displays highlighting KY EXCEL members' current projects to foster discussions about how to get involved. Attendees also heard seventeen KY EXCEL members speak on projects and innovative methods for conducting environmental education and outreach.

## ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

### KY EXCELEBRATION

Hosted by Kentucky American Water, a KY EXCEL Master since 2013, the 2018 members meeting (now known as the KY EXCELebration) celebrated members' accomplishments during the 2017 calendar year. For the first time, the program presented its Beacon Awards, for exemplary projects conducted during the previous year. There were eight awards given during the inaugural ceremony. More than 50 members joined on the morning of February 22, 2018 to network with and support their fellow KY EXCEL members.



*2018 KY EXCELebration* Members pose at the annual meeting hosted by Kentucky American Water.

### 2018 Beacon Award Winners

Project Category	Project Title	KY EXCEL Member	Membership Type
Conservation	Jim Beam Bees & Prairie Project	Beam Suntory – Jim Beam Clermont and Booker Noe Distilleries	Master
Education	Recycle Challenge	LFCUG	Leader
Performance Improvement	Reduction of VOC Emissions	National Office Furniture – Danville Location	Partner
Public Health	Main Street Clean Sweep	Bluegrass Greensource	Advocate
Restoration	River Sweep – Carrollton	North American Stainless	Master
Resource Efficiency	Reduction in City Water Consumption	Catlettsburg Refining, LLC	Master
Resource Support	Rain Barrel Workshops	Kentucky American Water	Master
Waste Reduction	Food Recovery	GleanKY	Advocate





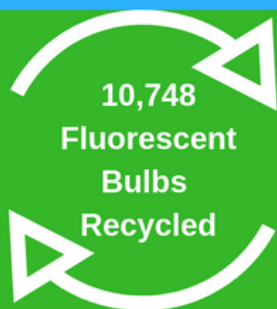
## KY EXCEL FY18 MEMBER PROJECT EXCELLENCE



### 2017-18 MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



415 Projects Completed  
4,518 People Trained  
6,741 Program Participants



10,748  
Fluorescent  
Bulbs  
Recycled



10,748  
Trees Planted



\$8,338,686.59  
Dollars  
SAVED

7,594,272  
Gallons  
Water Usage Reduced



3,463,645  
Pounds  
Waste Reduced



186 Events  
River Sweep &  
Litter Pick-ups



9,984,496  
Pounds  
Metal Recycled



19,642,932 kWh  
Electricity Reduced



(Above) Debbie Means holds the Master Certificate with members of the employee "Green Team."

### 2018 KY EXCEL Master Presentations:

**LEGGETT & PLATT WINCHESTER SPRING  
AND SEKISUI S-LEC AMERICA**



(Above) Sekisui President, Pedro Cordoba, receives the Master Certificate from former DCA Director, Paulette Akers.

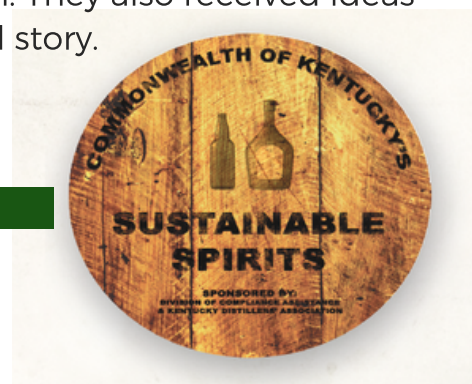
## SUSTAINABLE SPIRITS SUMMIT 2017



### *Sustainable Spirits Summit*

(Left) KDA's Ali Edelstein and DCA's Robyn Whitted ask the crowd questions. (Top Right) Participants take notes. (Bottom Right) The summit was followed by a tour of Copper & Kings.

KY EXCEL staff, in collaboration with the Kentucky Distillers' Association (KDA), coordinated the seventh annual Sustainable Spirits Summit (S3). The 2017 Summit was hosted by Copper & Kings Distillers, in Louisville, on October 3, 2017. Over fifty participants listened to presentations covering a range of topics including white oak sustainability, spent grains, best forestry practices and the KY EXCEL program. They also received ideas on marketing and communicating their unique environmental story.





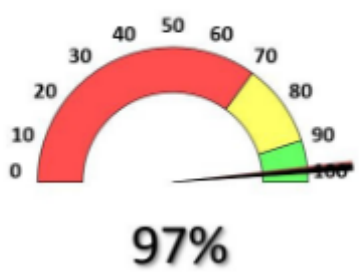
# kentucky's environmental leadership program, KY EXCEL



## ATTENDEES TRAINED



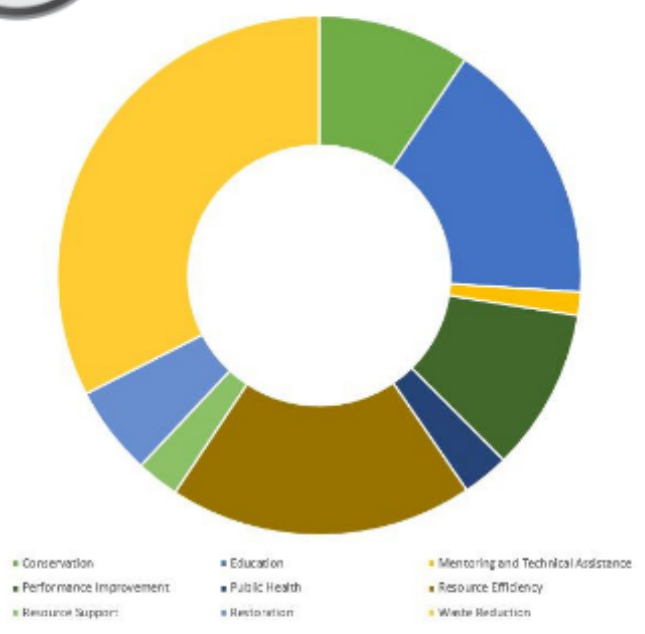
## ATTENDEE SATISFACTION



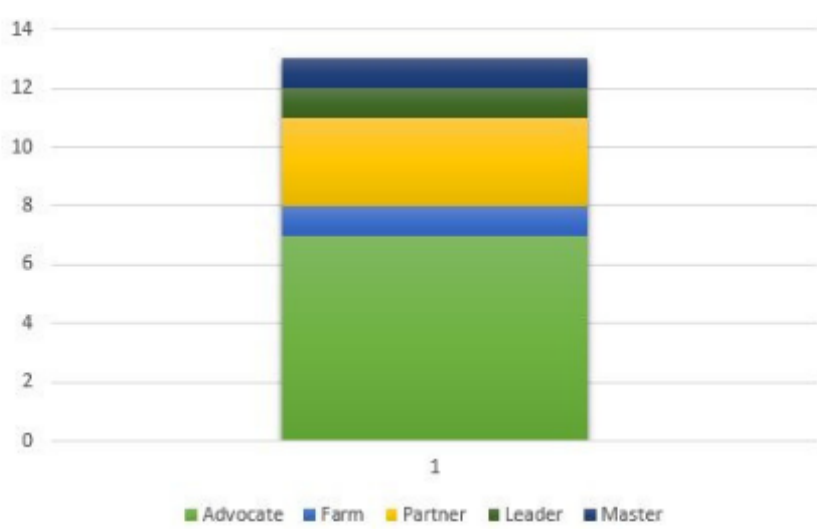
## TRAINING EVENTS



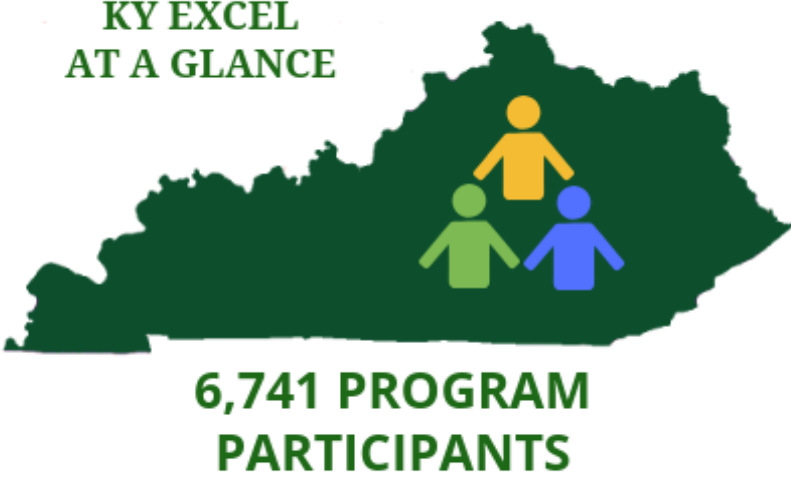
## PROJECTS BY CATEGORY



## NEW MEMBERS FY18



## KY EXCEL AT A GLANCE



## KY EXCEL MEMBER CATEGORIES

